

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305506
ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
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APPROVED BY MBKRATZER:OES/NET
EA/ROC:DBROWN

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O 170008Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TW, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA INSPECTION OF ROC NUCLEAR POWER FUEL

REFERENCE: TAIPEI 8277

1. WHILE THERE ARE PROS AND CONS FOR HAVING EMBASSY OFFICER OBSERVE SCHEDULED INSPECTION BY IAEA REPRESENTATIVES OF FUEL FOR TAIPOWER'S FIRST TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, WE BELIEVE THAT ON BALANCE WE HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN FROM SUCH OBSERVATION. OUR REASONING IN THIS REGARD IS THAT OBSERVATION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS, WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY SUBSTANTIVE INCREASE IN INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SINCE WE EXPECT TO HAVE GOOD ACCESS TO THE RESULTS OF THE IAEA INSPECTION. THERE IS ALSO SOME DOUBT, UNDER IAEA REGULATIONS, AS TO RIGHT OF THIRD COUNTRY TO BE PRESENT AT IAEA INSPECTION.

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2. WHILE PRESENCE OF EMBASSY OFFICER DURING INSPECTION, IF AT INVITATION OF ROC AND CARRIED OUT IN LOW-KEY UNOBTRUSIVE MANNER, MIGHT HAVE THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF DEMONSTRATING TO ROC OUR STRONG INTEREST AND CONTINUING CONCERN OVER MATTERS RELATING TO NUCLEAR EXPORTS AND SAFEGUARDS, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH INTEREST AND CONCERN WILL BE AMPLY --

DEMONSTRATED BY THE US TEAM VISIT NOW TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JANUARY.
ROBINSON

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NNN

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